

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.) PFOR RH ZA

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S VISIT: BISHOP MUZOREWA OF ANC ADAMANT ON
PRESS STATEMENT

REF: LUSAKA 1004, 1009

1. SUMMARY. EMBOFF SPENT HOUR WITH MUZOREWA AND AIDE MURAPA, JOINTED BRIEFLY BY SITHOLE. MUZOREWA WAS FIRM ON POSITION THERE WAS NOT NEED OR PURPOSE FOR HIM OR MEMBER OF HIS ANC FACTION TO MEET SECRETARY; ACKNOWLEDGED HARSH TONE OF STATEMENT BUT INFLEXIBLE ON CONTENT DESPITE POINT BY POINT REFUTATION; AND HAD NO EXPLANATION FOR SUDDEN CHANGE IN ATTITUDE SINCE RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR AND SENATOR PERCY.

END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF OPENED CONVERSATION EXPRESSING SURPRISE AND CONCERN AT THE TONE TAKEN IN MUZOREWA'S STATEMENT, WHICH IN SHARP CONTRAST WITH HIS ATTITUDE IN RECENT MEETINGS WITH USG REPS. EMBOFF MADE POINT BY POINT REBUTTAL OF 9 POINTS LISTED IN PARA 4 OF STATEMENT, SAYING THAT BISHOP AND MURAPA, WITH CONSIDERABLE AMERICAN BACKGROUND, KNEW PERFECTLY WELL THESE CONTAINED MANY DISTORTIONS AND FALSEHOODS. EMBOFF QUERIED REASON FOR STATEMENT AT THIS TIME AND WONDERED WHETHER MUZOREWA'S RIVALRY WITH NKOMO, WHO HAD ACCEPTED SECY'S INVITATION, WAS NOT UNFAIRLY INFLUENCING HIS VIEW OF THE US.

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3. MUZOREWA REPLIED THAT DECISION TAKEN BY ANC SIMPLY A CONTINUA-

TION OF ANC POLICY. HE ACKNOWLEDGED TONE OF STATEMENT WAS STRIDENT, BUT REFUSED BACK DOWN ON ANY PART OF IT. HE AND ANC HAD BEEN BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED OVER THE YEARS AT US FAILURE TO HELP ACHIEVE MAJORITY RULE THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS. NOW THAT ANC HAD, WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE, DECIDED PEACEFUL PERSUASION COULD NO LONGER BE EFFECTIVE AND HAD OPTED FOR ARMED STRUGGLE, US ASSISTANCE OR SUPPORT WAS NOT PERTINENT. TIME WHEN US COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE HAD PASSED AND ANC HAD NOTHING TO GAIN FROM DISCUSSION WITH SECY OR OTHERS. "IF KISSINGER WANTS TO SEE A ZIMBABWEAN, LET HIM TALK TO NKOMO."

4. SITHOLE MADE EMOTIONAL PRESENTATION ABOUT PRAYERFUL RELUCTANCE WITH WHICH ANC HAD DECIDED VIOLENCE WAS ONLY WAY. EMBOFF EXPRESSED SYMPATHY BUT ASKED AGAIN WHY ANC HAD ISSUED STATEMENT APPARENTLY REJECTING US SUPPORT. MUZOREWA SAID WASHINGTON WAS FULLY AWARE OF ANC GOALS AND PROBLEMS. "IF YOU WANT TO HELP, YOU WILL. OTHERWISE WE CAN FREE OURSELVES WITHOUT YOU."

5. IN LONG ARGUMENT OVER ATTACKS ON US POLICY, MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE WERE NOT SPECIFIC BUT REFUSED CONCEDE STATEMENT WAS INCORRECT. SITHOLE SAID HE HAD "KISSINGER PAPERS" DEMONSTRATING US SUPPORT FOR WHITE MINORITY IN ZIMBABWE, BUT WOULD OR COULD NOT SAY WHAT PAPERS HE HAD IN MIND. EMBOFF SAID MUZOREWA KNEW PERFECTLY WELL USG WAS NOT "ALLOWING" US MERCENARIES TO FIGHT IN ANGOLA AND STATEMENT ENTIRELY GRATUITOUS. MUZOREWA REPLIED ONLY "THEY ARE THERE, THEY ARE AMERICANS, THEY ARE KILLING US." FINALLY MUZOREWA SAID HE WAS GOING TO RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE IN US BUT WOULD HAVE NO INTEREST IN MEETING US OFFICIALS.

6. COMMENT: MUZOREWA'S PRESS CONFERENCE BLAST MAY BE EXPLAINABLE IN TERMS OF INTERNAL DISSENTION WITHIN THE ANC AND THE SIMULTANEOUS APPEARANCE OF US SUPPORT FOR ONE FACTION OF THE ANC. THE MUZOREWA EXTERNAL WING OF THE ANC IS STILL IN A SERIOUS POWER STRUGGLE WITH NKOMO, COMPETING FOR THE NON-MILITARY FOLLOWING OF THE BLACKS IN ZIMBABWE. YET IN REVIEWING ALL THE OPTIONS, MUZOREWA AND HIS FOLLOWERS IN THE EXTERNAL WING IN LUSAKA WERE DEBATING WHETHER SOME SORT OF RAPPROACHMENT WITH NKOMO WAS AT ALL POSSIBLE. IN THE MIDDLE OF THESE CONFLICTING CONCERNS THE WORLD PRESS REPORTED THAT SECY OF STATE KISSINGER WOULD BE SEEING MR. NKOMO. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF SEEING BISHOP MUZOREWA EVEN
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THOUGH THE SECY'S INTENTIONS REGARDING MEETINGS WITH ANC LEADERS DID NOT SPECIFY THEM BY NAME (STATE 91439). WORLD PRESS FAILED TO CLARIFY THE MISLEADING REPORT THAT THE SECY WOULD SEE ONLY NKOMO AND BY IMPLICATION NOT MUZOREWA. WE CORRECTED THIS IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH MUZOREWA OVER EASTER WEEKEND. HOWEVER, BY THEN IT WAS TOO LATE AS THE BISHOP AND HIS FACTION WERE ALREADY EMBITTERED TOWARD US ALTHOUGH TRYING NOT TO SHOW IT. WHILE MUZOREWA'S CHIEF COUNSELORS SITHOLE AND CHIKEREMA WERE PRESSING

THE BISHOP HARD TO JOIN UP FORCES WITH NKOMO WORD CAME FROM
GABELLAH AND CHAVUNDUKA IN RHODESIA THAT THEY WERE AGAINST UNITY
BECAUSE THEY CONTENDED THAT NKOMO WAS FAST LOSING HIS POLITICAL
SUPPORT IN RHODESIA FOLLOWING THE BREAKDOWN OF TALKS WITH IAN
SMITH. THE MILITANTS THEN OVER-RULED ANY TALK OF UNITY WITH
NKOMO, ESPECIALLY AS IT SEEMED TO THEM HE WAS A US FAVORITE.
THE VERY IMPRESSIONABLE AND WEAK MUZOREWA WAS INSTRUCTED BY
THE MAJORITY OF HIS COUNCIL TO STRIKE OUT AGAINST NKOMO AND THE
US WHICH HE DID. WE WILL MAKE NO FURTHER APPROACHES TO MUZOREWA
OR HIS FACTION UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.
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